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UNCLAS ASUNCION 000387

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/BSC AND G/IWI (LYNN KHADIAGALA)
DEPT PASS USAID LAC/AA
NSC FOR KIMBERLY BREIER

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CHILD MARRIAGE--PARAGUAY

REF: SECSTATE 36341

1. Per reftel, Law 1/92 stipulates that the minimum age to contract marriage is 16. The law permits marriage at age 14 with judicial authorization. The age is the same for both boys and girls.

2. Teresa Sanchez, legal advisor to the Minister for Children and Adolescents, told PolOff that child marriage is generally not a social problem in Paraguay, and that her department has not encountered any cases of illegal child marriages. She noted that adolescent marriages routinely arise from unplanned teenage pregnancies, but that such cases generally receive judicial authorization. Many adolescents also have children at an early age without marrying.

3. There are no U.S.-funded initiatives in Paraguay that address the issue of child marriage.

KEANE